

AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS

1 (currently amended). In a mini-van having a rear opening, a rear door closing the rear opening, and an extendible ramp for providing access to the rear of the minivan, the improvement comprising:

a bumper divided into at least three sections, wherein [[the]] a central section is coupled to one of the remaining sections by a hinge that enables the central section to swing like a gate to provide access through the bumper to the rear opening.

2 (original). The minivan as set forth in claim 1 wherein said minivan includes a drop floor extending to said rear opening and said central section includes a cover section attached to the lower portion of said central section for enclosing said drop floor.

3. (original) The minivan as set forth in claim 1 wherein said central section is wider than said ramp.

4 (original). The minivan as set forth in claim 1 wherein said central section includes a latch that secures the rear door in a closed position.

5 (original). The minivan as set forth in claim 1 wherein said central section is coupled to one of the remaining sections by a four bar hinge.

6 (original). The minivan as set forth in claim 5 wherein said four bar hinge causes said central section to move rearwardly from a closed position and then to rotate about said hinge.

7 (original). In a mini-van having a rear opening, a rear door closing the rear opening, and an extendible ramp for providing access to the rear of the minivan, the improvement comprising:

a gate adjacent the rear opening, said gate pivoting about a substantially vertical axis to provide access to the rear opening.

8 (original). The minivan as set forth in claim 7 wherein said gate is coupled to said minivan by a four bar hinge.

9 (original). The minivan as set forth in claim 8 wherein said four bar hinge causes said gate to translate and then rotate as the gate is opened and to rotate and then translate as the gate is closed.

10 (original). The minivan as set forth in claim 7 wherein said gate includes a latch that attaches the rear door to the gate.